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C. F. CURTIS RILEY, who has been special lecturer in animal behavior in the department of forest zoology, at the New York State College of Forestry, at Syracuse University, for the past year and a half, has been appointed assistant professor of forest zoology, in the same institution.

DR. LUTHER C. PETER has been elected professor of ophthalmology in the graduate school of the University of Pennsylvania.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AN APPEAL FROM BELGIUM

THE following letter has been received from the Curator of the Entomological Section of the Royal Museum of Natural History of Belgium:

[TRANSLATION]

BRUSSELS, 11-1-1919.

Dear Sir:

It is absolutely necessary that you write some notices in the American scientific journals in order to save the Selys Catalogue. I have lost twenty subscriptions in Europe and I must retrieve them in the United States. Financial aid from the deSelys family is impossible for a long time. Each new subscription will bring a little capital to the reconstitution of this work which can be brought to a termination with a little energy and with the aid of all. The great institutions, libraries, etc., ought to put some of their pennies into subscriptions.

Here we have suffered much from the slow and inexorable hunger, from the nervous depression of our abominable slavery that no one can describe. Our museum and our collections are saved, but I have lost one of my two sons who was at the front, a fine boy of 24 years, a captain of engineers. I have lost a part of my small fortune and my health, but more I fear that the sufferings from hunger have compromised the future of my younger son and of my grandchildren.

The balance sheet is sad and I have little courage to take it up. I would not, however, see the Catalogue, to which I have devoted myself for years, founder. This is why I call for your aid. Write to your entomological friends and sustain me.

Yours sorrowfully,
G. SEVERIN.

The Baron Edmond de Selys Longchamps (1813-1900) was known as the chief authority

on the taxonomy and geographical distribution of the Odonata. He formed an extensive collection of these insects and of other "neuropteroids" from all parts of the world, and of the vertebrates and some other groups of Europe. These collections were presented after his death to the Brussels Museum by his two sons.

The publication of the "*Catalogue Systematique et Descriptif des Collections Zoologiques du Baron Edm. de Selys Longchamps*," "designed to realize the supreme desire of their late possessor and at the same time to serve science," was begun in 1906 under the care of the two sons, M. Severin and a number of zoologists, who undertook, as specialists, the preparation of certain parts thereof.

It was planned to appear in 32 fascicules of a varying number of pages, of large quarto size, illustrated by text figures and some plates. The subscription price for the complete work was fixed at 25 centimes (20 centimes for the fascicules on Orthoptera, Lepidoptera and Vertebrata) per page of text, 2.75 francs per colored plate and 2 francs per black and white plate, with an increase of 25 per cent. for subscription to separate parts only.

At the beginning of the war 21 fascicules had appeared, treating of the Orthoptera, Embiidæ, Perlodides, Megaloptera, Trichoptera, Ascalaphidæ, Libellulinæ, Cordulinæ, Æschninæ, Birds, Mammals, Amphibia and Fishes, at a total price of 703.50 francs. The eight fascicules on the Libellulinæ by Dr. F. Ris, of Rheinau, Switzerland, constitute the most extensive monograph on that subfamily ever produced, and several other groups have been dealt within a similar fashion. Several fascicules are in such an advanced state of preparation or of printing that they can be issued in a short time.

There are many reasons—scientific, humanitarian, international, appreciative of the nation which has suffered so fearfully—why the Selysian catalogue should be carried to completion and it is to be hoped that readers of this appeal will personally do all in their

power to aid in this accomplishment by inducing institutions which they can influence to subscribe. All correspondence relating to subscriptions should be addressed to M. G. Severin, Musée Royal d'Histoire Naturelle, 31 Rue Vautier, Bruxelles, Belgium.

PHILIP P. CALVERT

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

CROSS-SECTION LINES ON BLACKBOARDS AND THEIR ILLUMINATION

THOSE who wish cross-section rulings on blackboards temporarily, thus leaving the board free for other work after the curve-plotting is finished, can do so by a simple device. On a sheet of white paper make a ruling of lines, 2 cm. apart, the whole grid being 16×24 cm., and the lines not quite one mm. thick. Take a photograph of this, making the camera image the size of a lantern-slide. Mount the negative in a lantern, projecting the image on the blackboard. A lantern equipped with a 400-watt Mazda lamp will make the lines sufficiently visible for plotting even in a well-lighted room. The lines are erased by turning off the lamp.

FLOOD-LIGHTING FOR BLACKBOARDS

A SIMPLE system of lights should be added in dark recitation and lecture rooms, so that no light reaches the eye, either from the illuminant, nor from the board by direct reflection. A 40-watt lamp suffices for 4 ft. of blackboard, and need not project from the wall more than 18 inches.

PAUL F. GAHR

WELLS COLLEGE

CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURE OF SULPHONIC ACIDS

THE Department of Agriculture announces that the color laboratory of the Bureau of Chemistry, of this department, has developed, on a laboratory scale, a new process for the manufacture of certain sulphonic acids. This process, as carried out in the laboratories, appears so promising that it is thought that some manufacturers of chemicals and dyestuffs in this country may be able to supply their demands for these and other valuable compounds

by this process, provided the process can be reproduced upon a technical scale so as to obtain results commensurate with laboratory investigations. The process refers particularly to the sulphonation in the vapor phase of benzene, naphthalene, and other hydrocarbons.

With a view to helping the chemical industry of this country, the Department of Agriculture hereby announces that it is ready to assist manufacturers who wish to produce these compounds. The expenses of the technical installation and of the labor and materials necessary will of necessity be borne by the firm, individual, or corporation wishing to manufacture the products. The chemists of the Color Laboratory will assist with expert advice, etc. The department reserves the right to publish all the data obtained from the technical experiments.

This offer of assistance will not be held open by the department for an indefinite period.

D. F. HOUSTON,

Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

British Antarctic (Terra Nova) Expedition, 1910. Natural History Report, Zoology, II., No. 8. *Brachiopoda.* By J. WILFRID JACKSON, F.G.S. 4to, pp. 177-202, 1 pl., July 27, 1918, London, British Museum.

The various Antarctic expeditions in the years immediately preceding the war, obtained material greatly extending our knowledge of the fauna of the regions about the Southern Pole. This to a considerable extent reached the scientific world by means of publication, but a certain portion was delayed and, owing to war conditions, seemed likely indefinitely to continue so. It is therefore with peculiar pleasure that we have received the present contribution issued during the past summer by the trustees of the British Museum.

The *Brachiopoda* obtained by the Terra Nova party form an interesting and valuable series adding considerably to our knowledge of the characteristics and geographical distribution of the Antarctic species. One of the forms